

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 HA-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 /104 W
-----006754 271536Z /41

O R 271445Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7364

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: SAG RELEASES 63 PRISONERS

1. THE REUTERS OFFICE IN JOHANNESBURG INFORMS US THAT, ACCORDING TO THE 1 P.M. NEWS BROADCAST MAY 27 AND A SUBSEQUENT SAPA RELEASE, THE SAG HAS ANNOUNCED THE RELEASE OF 63 PERSONS CAPTURED IN THE MAY 4 RAID INTO ANGOLA. ACCORDING TO THE RELEASE, THOSE CAPTURED IN ANGOLA INCLUDED HARD-CORE TERRORISTS, HALF-TRAINED TERRORISTS, AND ACCOMPLICES. THOSE RELEASED TODAY WERE REPORTEDLY IN THE LAST TWO GROUPS. NO FIGURE WAS GIVEN FOR THOSE REMAINING IN CUSTODY. THE FREED PRISONERS WERE SAID TO
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HAVE BEEN EITHER DUPED OR TAKEN FROM NAMIBIA TO ANGOLA AGAINST THEIR WILL BY SWAPO TERRORISTS. AN SADF SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THOSE RELEASED NO LONGER HAD INFORMATION OF VALUE TO THE SECURITY FORCES. THE REUTERS OFFICE REPORTED THAT SAPA LINKED THE PRISONER RELEASE TO AMBASSADOR MCHENRY'S RECENT CALL FOR POSITIVE MOVES BY SOUTH AFRICA TO RESTORE

MOMENTUM TO THE WESTERN INITIATIVE.

2. COMMENT: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WHETHER WE CONSIDER THE SAG MOVE A POSITIVE STEP IN TERMS OF THE WESTERN INITIATIVE, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE: "THE SAG RELEASE OF 63 PERSONS CAPTURED IN THE MAY 4 RAID INTO ANGOLA IS, OF COURSE, WELCOME. IT IS DOUBLY WELCOME IF IT REFLECTS AN INTENTION BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES TO TAKE STEPS AIMED AT BUILDING THE ATMOSPHERE OF CONFIDENCE AND TRUST NEEDED TO MOVE AHEAD NOW TO A PEACEFUL AND INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE TRANSITION OF NAMIBIA TO INDEPENDENCE."
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 27 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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